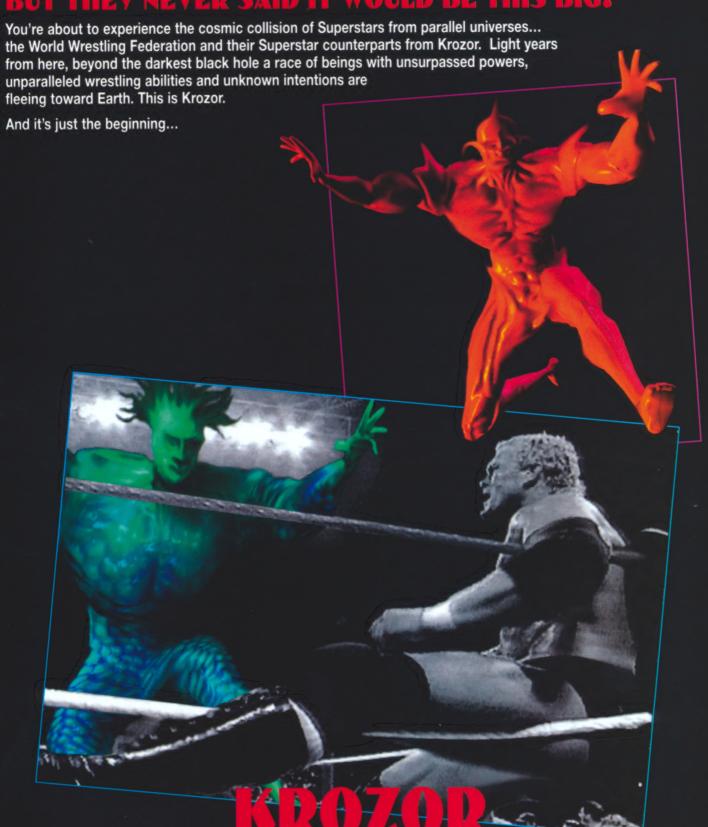


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THEY ALWAYS SAID THERE'D BE ANOTHER BIG BANG. BUT THEY NEVER SAID IT WOULD BE THIS BIG!



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VOL. 16 NO. 4

CELLES !

FEATURES

- THE SULTAN OF SADISM
 Caught In The Line of Fire
- PUTTING THE BITE ON WRESTLEMANIA

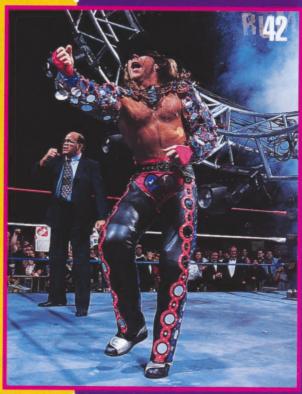
Vic Venom's Greatest WrestleMania Moments!

- RIDIN' THE STORM OUT!
 How Double J Jesse James Survived
 War In The Desert
- A VOICE FROM THE DEAD
 The Undertaker Speaks
- REMEMBER THE ALAMO... HOW COULD YOU FORGET?!

Exclusive Royal Rumble Review

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E
Who Has THE Sharpest Edge?





- **2** SECRET SUPERSTAR
- **3** FEDERATION FANATICS
- **4** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
- **ROOKIES TO LEGENDS**
- **8** THE BITE
- 10 TALES FROM THE TURNBUCKLE
- **54** SLAMMY THIS!
- **59** BARRED FROM THE BACK
- 60 PIN 'EM DOWN
- **62** PRIVATE EYE
- **64** SCOOP SULLIVAN

CAR YOU GUESS THE SUPERIOR THIS Month's Secret Superstar's favorite movie is "Fast Times at Ridgemont High"!



HINTS:

- 1. Just like every other teenager growing up in the 70s, this month's Secret Superstar's favorite party night was "S-A-T-U-R-D-A-Y NIGHT"!
- **2.** This month's Secret Superstar holds the notoriety of being the charter member of the Monkees Fan Club! He also holds the notoriety of being the LAST remaining member!
- **3.** This month's Secret Superstar doesn't like to admit his mistakes, but he once got suspended for "Smokin' in the Boys' Room" in high school!
- **4.** Turning over a new "leaf" was the first thing on this month's Secret Superstar's mind when he entered the singles ranks of the Federation this past December by taking Flash Funk to the limit! In fact, he's out to prove he isn't and never was a dork!
- **5.** Not only does this month's Secret Superstar attend church every Sunday, but he also makes a pilgrimage to Cleveland, Ohio, every month to worship what he calls "the Mecca of his life"—the Rock 'N' Roll Hall of Fame!

THE SECRET SUPERSTAR IS:

ANSWER ON PAGE 64



Editor-in-Chief Vince Russo

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VOLUME 16 NO. 4

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FEDERATION

Fatics



Name: Tom Tatterfield
Age: Eight

Hometown: Tucson, Arizona School: Desert Willow Elementary

Grade: Second

Future Ambition: To become a Federation superstar when I finish college!

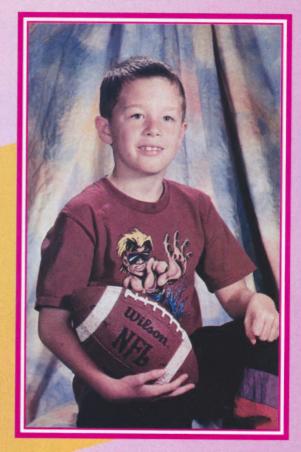
Favorite Federation Superstar: The Undertaker
Least Favorite Federation Superstar: Mr. Bob Backlund
What I like best about the World Wrestling Federation:
Watching all the awesome Pay-Per-View events!

If I were president of the World Wrestling Federation, I would:

Give the Undertaker some title matches!

What I do when I'm not watching the World Wrestling Federation:

I create wrestlers and paint them on paper!





Name: Larry Hinton, Jr.

Age: 12

Hometown: Raleigh, North Carolina School: Durant Road Middle School

Grade: Sixth

Future Ambition: To someday become the World Wrestling Federation Champion!

Favorite Federation Superstar: Mankind

Least Favorite Federation Superstar: Owen Hart

What I like best about the World Wrestling

If I were president of the World Wrestling Federation, I would: Make a "no count-out" rule for every match!

What I do when I'm not watching the World Wrestling Federation: I read the World Wrestling Federation

Magazine from cover to cover!

Federation: Steel Cage Matches!



Questions, Gomi

There is no time limit!!

World Wrestling Federation Magazine
Interactive is a no-time-limit, no-holdsbarred, communicative channel where you can connect with the Federation any day or night in order to bodyslam us with your opinions and views!

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To reach the editor, use any of the methods listed below:



FAX your comments, questions and suggestions to: 203-359-5118



E-MAIL us at the following Internet address: WWFEDITOR@AOL.COM



WRITE us at:
World Wrestling Federation Magazine,
c/o Vince Russo, Editor,
P.O. Box 3859,
Stamford, CT 06905

Letter:



Dear Editor,
There's no question about it—
YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO SAY
NO TO SUNNY! I mean, I'm a
guy, too, and I think Sunny looks
good and all, but don't you have
any integrity? You need to put
your foot down and learn to JUST
SAY NO! Are you a wuss or
something? Do what's right for the
magazine!

Cory Gilmore Broseley, MI

Dear Cory, WUSS?! As Stone Cold Steve Austin would say, "Those are fightin' words, SON!" Cory, buddy, lighten up on the ol' editor! So, Sunny plays me like a finetuned harp, SO WHAT! I can think of much worse things than that! Cut me some slack, Jack! Oh and by the way, JEALOUSY will get you nowhere!

Letter:



Dear Editor,
I'm writing to tell you that I think
you're doing a terrific job! My
favorite column is "Barred From
The Back", because it gets the
inside scoop on all the World
Wrestling Federation superstars. I
also enjoy your in-depth interviews because I like to know
about the wrestlers' lives outside
the ring. In closing, I just want to
say that both the World Wrestling
Federation and RAW Magazines
are so cool that I won't even read
anything else!

David Danella Mechanicsburg, PA Dear David.

Thanks for the kind words! It's letters like yours that inspire me to sit down at my computer—24 HOURS A DAY! Only kidding (1 wish)! I'm glad to see that you enjoy "Barred From The Back" because the Informer is one of my faves as well! And, as far as the in-depth interviews go-l've said it before and I'll say it again, getting to know the World Wrestling Federation superstars as the extraordinary human beings that they really are is the greatest privilege I have as Editor-in-Chief of this publication!



Dear Editor,

After reading the article entitled "Through My Crystal Turnbuckle... Again!" in the January issue of World Wrestling Federation Magazine, I've got to ask: How in the world could you think that Shawn Michaels and his Kliq could ever be tag team partners with Stone Cold Steve Austin? I mean, Shawn is a great wrestler, why would he want to be partners with a guy like Austin?

Adam Skinner Kitchener, ONT, CAN

Dents and gossip

INTERACTIN' WITH THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION





Drawing By Jerry Bernhardt

Age 8

Dear Editor.

I just came across an article in the February issue of World Wrestling Federation Magazine entitled "Cryin' King". The story was based on the life and times of Jerry "The King" Lawler. Now I realize that many people dislike Lawler because he cheats and runs his mouth, but I feel that the King is a great asset to the World Wrestling Federation! He brings both humor and experience as a commentator. I think the fans should give this great veteran a chance! It's time that they start giving the King the credit he deserves! I doubt that you will publish this, but if you do, I'm asking the readers of this magazine to think twice before they dish the King!

Rob Needham Chicago, IL

Dear Rob,

Don't DOUBT me... because I just might print your letter! My question is: How many chances do you want the fans to give to Lawler? You ask them to think twice? Give him a chance? Robby, baby, C'MON! The guy's had more chances than Darryl Strawberry and Steve Howe combined!!!

Dear Adam

Listen to what you're saying, my friend! "A guy like Austin?" Hey, son, like him or not, Steve Austin is every bit the wrestler Shawn Michaels is! I think the Heart-

break Kid would tell you that himself! In my opinion, Shawn would team with Austin in a heartbeat-AND what a tag team they would be!

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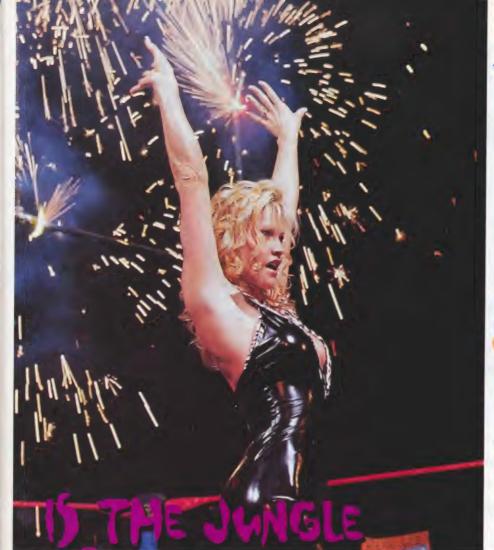
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Lifestyle making Sable "Too" wild?

Everyone knows Sable is the silent tigress in Marc Mero's jungle, right? WRONG!

During several recent matches involving the Wildman Marc Mero, Sable has been playing a more active role in and out of the squared circle. However, to our surprise, we have learned that the Wildman may in fact be CONDONING IT! Sable seems to enjoy sticking her high-healed shoes in the ribs of Mero's opponent, but she also has done something no other woman has ever done—GET IN THE FACE OF THE GRIM REAPER!

Recently on World Wrestling Federation Superstars, the Wildman was about to get bested by the

Undertaker when out of the blue. Sable jumped to the ring apron. Not only were Federation officials shocked that she put herself in harm's way, but sources close to ringside during the match have told them Sable actually THREATENED the Undertaker! Then, if that wasn't enough, as the Grim Reaper and Marc were fighting on the outside of the ring, the blonde vixen confronted the dead man AGAIN! This time, Sable's courage got her in big trouble, as she soon found the Undertaker's hand wrapped around her throat. She survived the encounter, but the question still remains... is Sable's new attitude hazardous to her health?



TOUR GUIDE

March

- 10 Worcester, MA
- 14 Louisville, KY
- 15 Landover, MD
- 16 MSG, NYC
- 17 Syracuse, NY
- 22 Rosemont, IL
- 23 Rosemont, IL (WrestleMania XIII)
- 24 Rockford, IL
- 25 Peoria, IL

Opril

1-14 (International tour of the Middle East and South Africa)

- 18 Youngstown, OH
- 19 State College, PA
- 20 Rochester, NY (In Your House)
- 21 Binghamton, PA
- 27 Sioux City, IA
- 28 Omaha, NE

VALUE

The first 2,500 cable or satellite customers who send in a copy of their cable bill showing purchase of April's *In Your House* will receive a pair of Shawn Michaels glasses! A copy of the bill must be received by June 30, 1997. The copy MUST show proof of purchase!

All bills should be sent to:

April In Your House P.O. Box 3857 Stamford, CT 06902



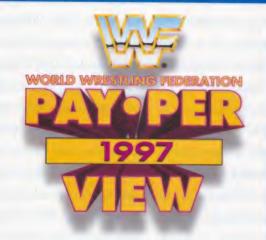
MRATHINGSBG

It would seem that with all the athletic talent possessed by Intercontinental Champion Hunter Hearst-Helmsley, this Greenwich Snob wouldn't need anyone to watch his back! However, Hunter proved us wrong at the 1997 Royal Rumble when he introduced his NEW behemoth butler, "Curtis", to the world! Fans of the Federation will no doubt remember Curtis Hughes as the man who gave the Undertaker everything he could handle in 1993, so this monster more than meets Hunter's criteria! However, many of the Greenwich native's peers

are openly stating that Curtis is more muscle than Hunter needs. After all, can't Helmsley defend his own ground as a fighting champion?

"Please... ask an intelligent question," Hunter replied. "With all of these peasants like Goldust and Marc Mero trying to attack me and swindle me out of my title at every opportunity, it's a shame that a gentleman like myself must rely on protection such as this. But if these idiots want to try and jump on my back, Curtis will be more than willing to break theirs."





March 23

WRESTLEMANIA XIII Rosemont, IL

April 20

IN YOUR HOUSE Rochester, NY

May 11

IN YOUR HOUSE Baltimore, MD



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TAN MD DACIZITIND AND THE IDOM OF THE

ULTAN, MR. BACKLUND AND THE IRON SHIEK

you? The two of you seem to be very hard on him, both physically and mentally. Why?

IRON SHEIK: We HAVE TO train him very hard! We HAVE TO be serious! He HAS TO have focus! Nothing comes easy in this sport! It's the toughest sport in the world! This is the way that Mr. Backlund and the Iron Sheik were brought up in the sport! The "old country" way! The hard way!

EDITOR: It goes a little bit further than just training. We've seen acts of outright barbarism! Are such extremes necessary?

IRON SHEIK: AB-SOLUTELY, SIR! If you want to be the Olympic Champion, if you want to

you have to be disciplined! You have to listen to the coach, listen to the trainer, watch the diet, watch the eat, watch the rest, that's the most important thing in this toughest sport world wrestling!

EDITOR: In my opinion, we're not talking about training, we're not talking about discipline, we're talking about brutality... punishment! I've personally seen you, Mr. Backlund, beat the Sultan with a board! This is not acceptable in today's society! MR. BACKLUND: I think

MR. BACKLUND: I think it's, um... atypical. Our society and the plebeians... and, by the way, who cares about your opinion?

EDITOR: It's not just my opinion. It's the opinion of



many World Wrestling Federation fans!

MR. BACKLUND: Well, they can have their opinion! We do what we do! We don't judge you by what you do! We don't IN THE LINE OF FIRE

IN THE LINE OF FIRE

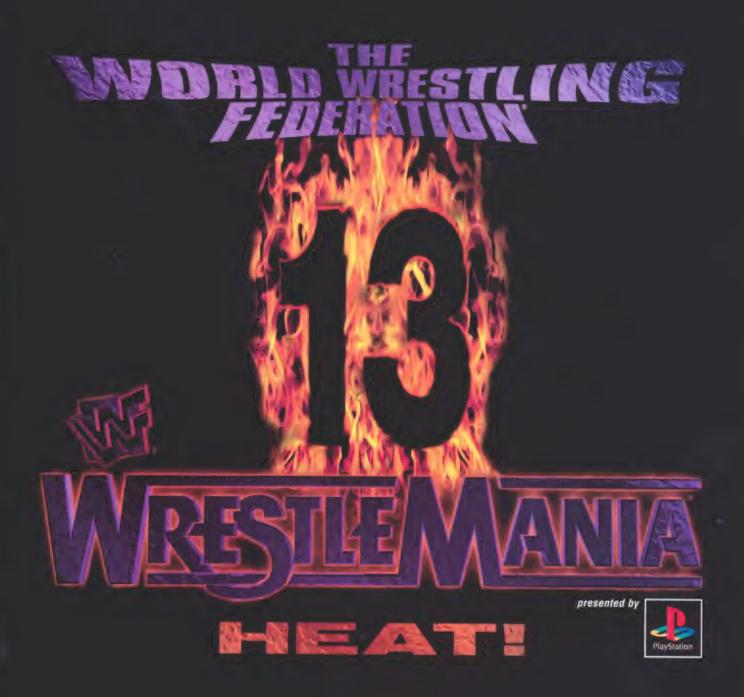
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Hulk Hogan over Sgt. Slaughter? Gag me with a legdrop! Ultimate Warrior over Randy Savage? Interesting, but the Elizabeth thing killed it for me in the end. Do you think for one minute that the "lovely" Miss Elizabeth would have been capable of MAN-handling the MANLY Queen Sherri? I didn't... and still don't. No, what made my WrestleMania VII was the WM debut of the Undertaker!

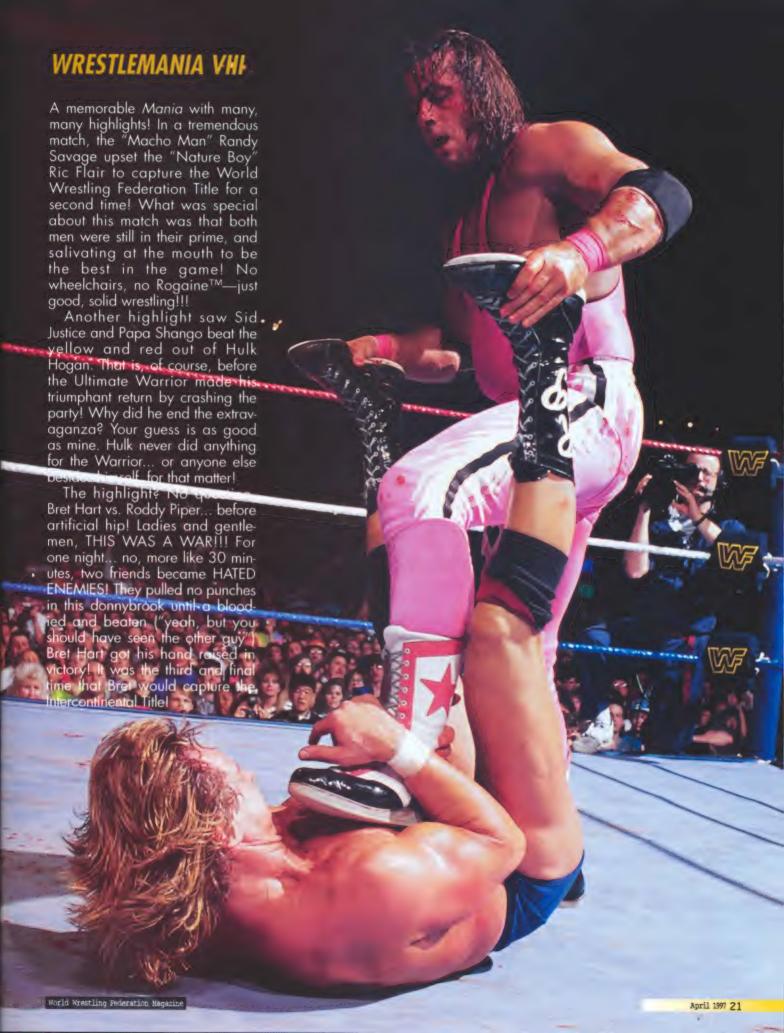
In his first sports-entertainment Super Bowl EVER, the Undertaker swatted Superfly Jimmy Snuka like the pesky little bug that he was... and still is! Snuka threw everything he had at the Grim Reaper, but to no avail! In the end, it was the Tombstone Piledriver that clipped the wings of the Fly, who was not heard from again until many years later! This one match set the "plot" for the Undertaker who buried Hulk Hogan at the 1991 Survivor Series eight months later en route to becoming the World Wrestling Federation Champion!



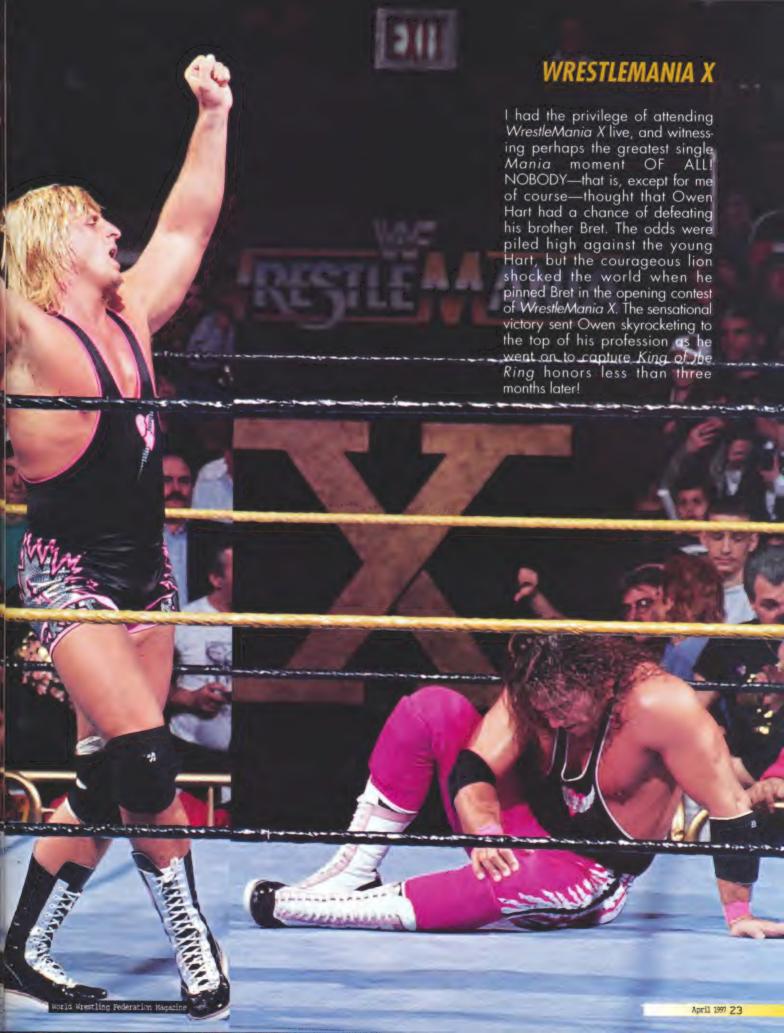
VIC VENOM'S GREATEST WRESTLEMANIA MOMENTS!!! PART II

As WrestleMania XIII looms just beyond the horizon (get it—ROSEMONT?), last month I took the time to highlight some of my personal, most prodigious moments in Mania history (I-VI)! Therefore, right here, right now, comes the finish to my insights as I look back and relive the last six Super Bowls of sports-entertainment!!!

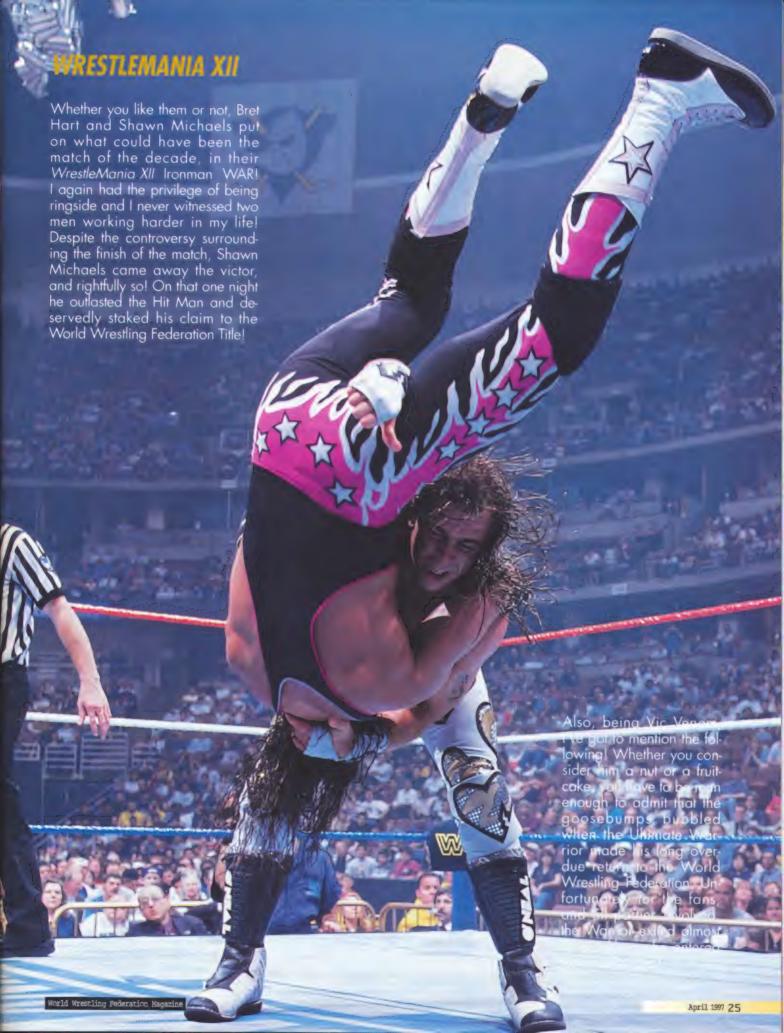














GO HOME...



April 1997 27



PERSONALITY PROFILE

FAVORITE BAND:

Van Halen

BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE:

When I was blessed to have witnessed the birth of my daughter!

PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET:

Robert DeNiro—just because he is an intense actor!

FAVORITE SPORT (BESIDES WRESTLING):

Beach volleyball

FAVORITE ATHLETE:

Michael Jordan

FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW:

The Andy Griffith Show

HOBBIES:

Spending time at home with my daughter!

FAVORITE FOOD:

Steak

FAVORITE FAST FOOD:

Pizza

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED:

My father
(Bullet Bob Armstrong)
always told me to RELAX!

FAVORITE ACTOR:

Robert DeNiro

FAVORITE ACTRESS.

Sally Field

If I Could Have Done It Differently, I Would Have...

Not left the World Wrestling Federation the first time around!

FAVORITE VIDEO GAME:

Pac-Man... the classics are still the best!

SECRET TALENT:

I can play "Dixie" on my belly button with my finger!

FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTER:

Bugs Bunny

FAVORITE MOVIE:





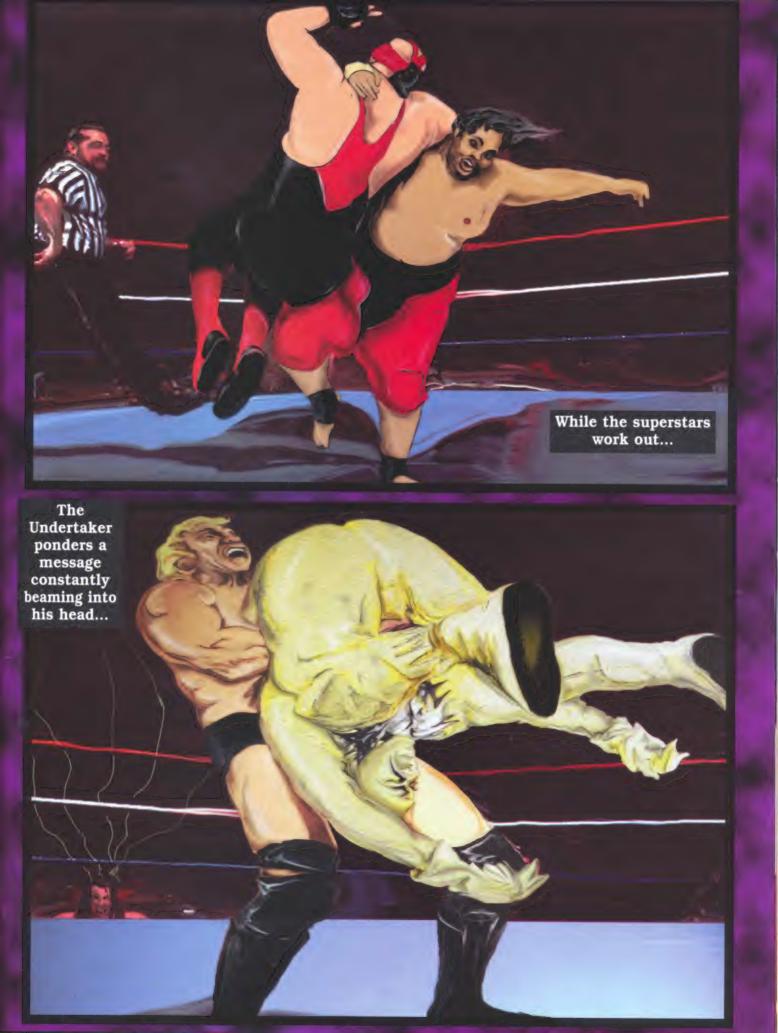
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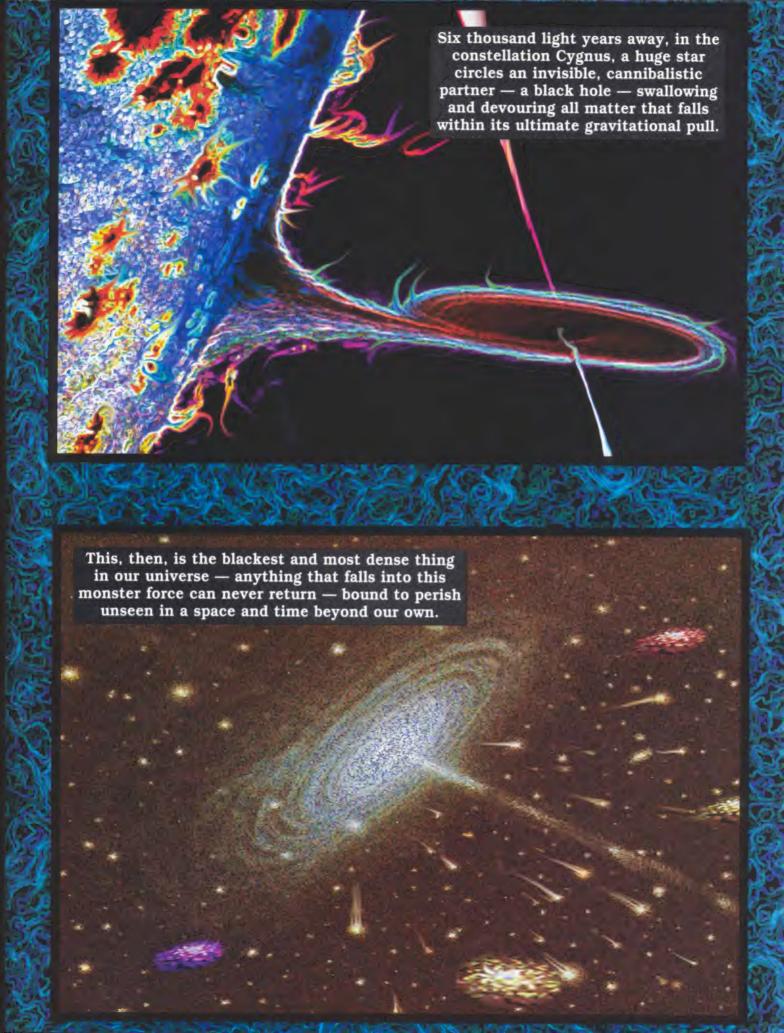


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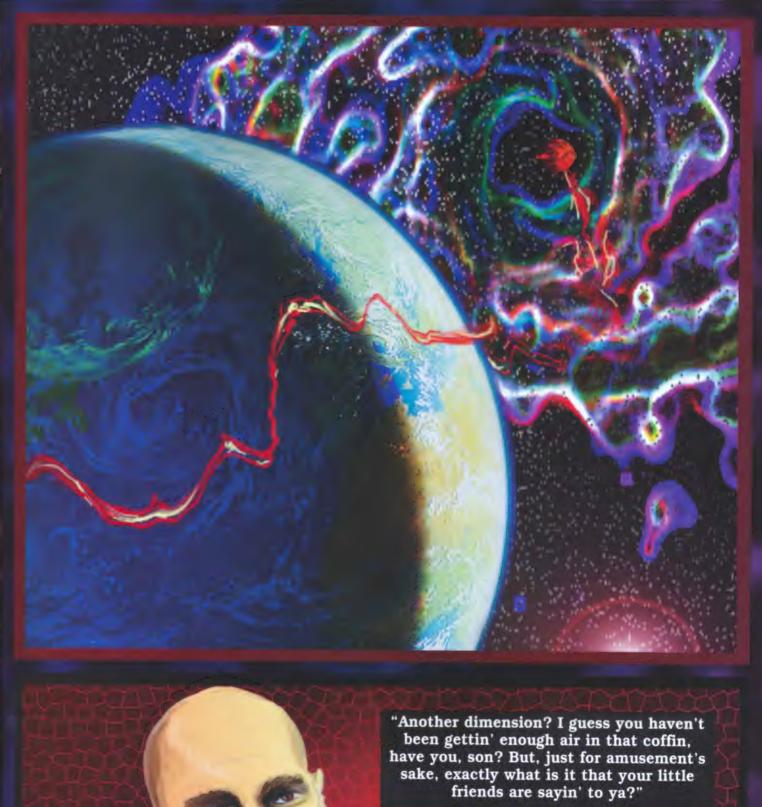


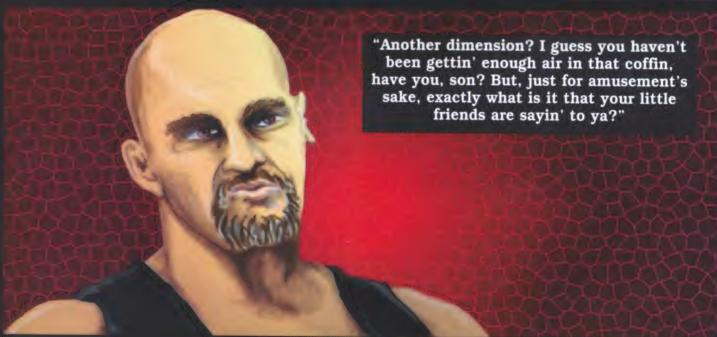














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SPECIALS! Word According to the Undertaker

the Creatures of the Night to get wrightfully should be theirs... the World Wrestling Federation Title Some challengers have complained that they have been cheated out of the top contention spot... but I ask you... who has been cheated more than the Creatures of the Night? Some say my soul is too dark to represent the World Wrestling federation as their Champion, but the time to be cast aside is now over. Anyone who steps in

EDITOR: Why haven't you tried to do anything about this situation until now?

UNDERTAKER: Then

re, first, some personal issues to put to rest. With
them behind... now is the time to reclaim the
World Wrestling Federation Title. Over the
years, I've let other challengers such as Shawn
Michaels, Bret Hart and Sycho Sid take my
glory. Those men carried a belt that should
have been mine. But now, on the dawning of this new day... comes their
darkest realities.

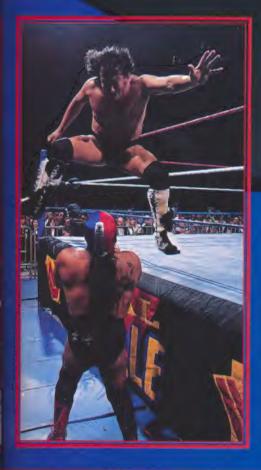
EDITOR: Since Paul Bearer's act of treachery, you have been without a manager. Would you ever consider having someone guide your career once again, or are the Creatures of the Night all you need?

UNDERTAKER: The Creatures of the Night have always been true to my soul. The strength of their spirit is what gives me my power. I have

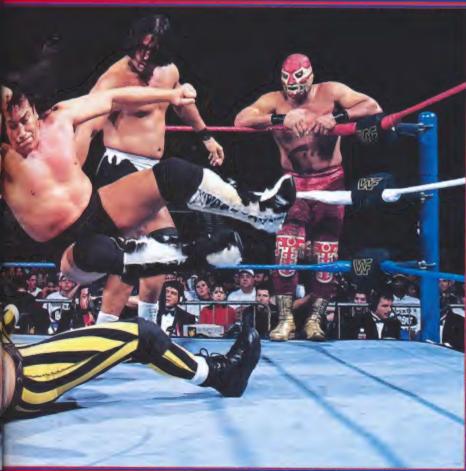












PERRO AGUAYO, HECTOR GARZA & EL CANEK VS. FUERZA GUERRERA, HEAVY METAL & JERRY ESTRADA

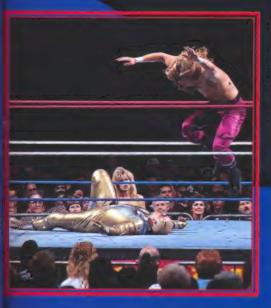
This unique bout gave American fans a glimpse into the action generally seen South of the Border, as these competitors from Mexico's AAA promotion lit up the ring. Estrada shocked the crowd by

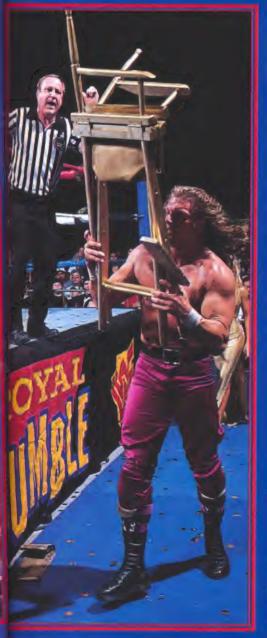
Estrada shocked the crowd by being backflipped out of the ring by Aguayo—and landing feet first at ringside. Heavy Metal and Garza then ran the ropes, literally sprinting up the strands and flipping themselves backwards to execute a variety of maneuvers. Garza mounted the top turnbuckle, spun himself like a screwdriver through the air and flattened Heavy Metal on the arena floor.

The end came when El Canek—a true international legend who once pinned the great Lou Thesz—Gorilla-pressed and slammed Estrada, then tagged Aguayo who got the victory with an elbow followed by a double stomp to the abdomen from the top rope.











HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY:

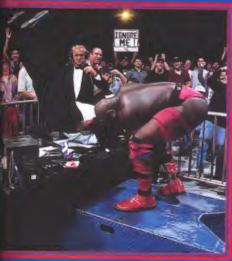
"I may be through with Goldust, but I'm not yet through with the lovely Marlena."

GOLDUST:

"There are no words... only actions!"







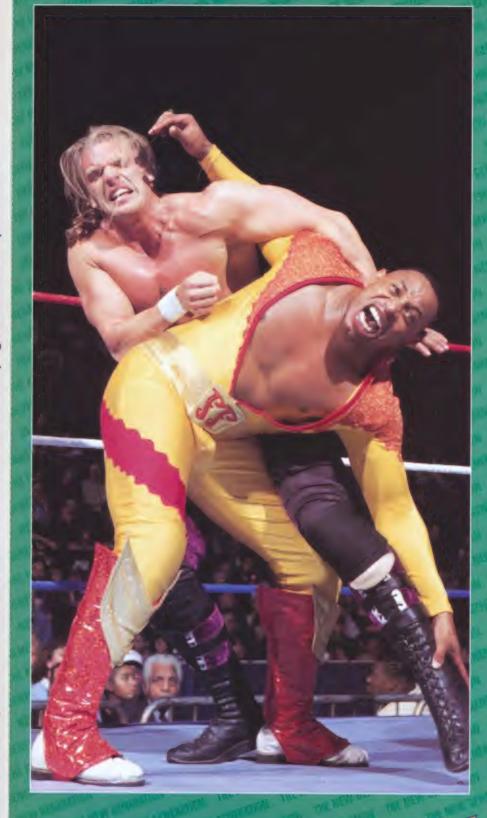
AHMED JOHNSON:

"This war has just started, Faarooq! And I'm not gonna put you through a table like I did one of your boys. I'M GONNA PUT YOU THROUGH A CEMENT WALL!!!"

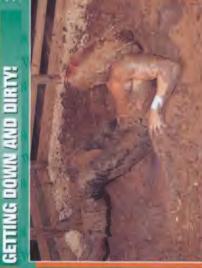
FAAROOQ:

"One man cannot overcome the Nation, not even if his name is Ahmed Johnson! No, this war isn't over, and next time I'm bringing out the HEAVY ARTILLERY!!!



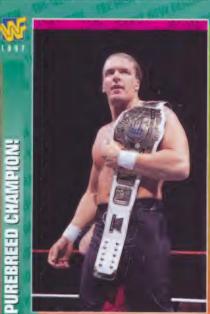






HAIR TODAY... GONE TOMORROW!















THE UNDERTAKER:

"A black cloud now hovers over all in the World Wrestling Federation. From this dark night on... the Undertaker will never be the same again."

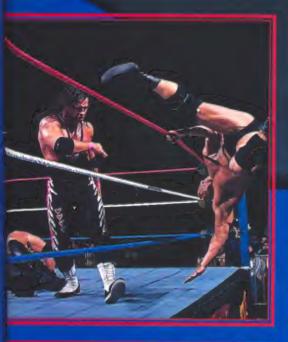
VADER:

"Who's the man now, Dead Man?! WHO'S THE MAN NOW?"

PAUL BEARER:

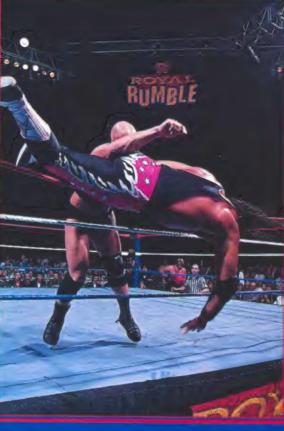
"Oooh, yesss! I've humiliated your Undertaker again! It doesn't get any better than this!"







ORDER OF







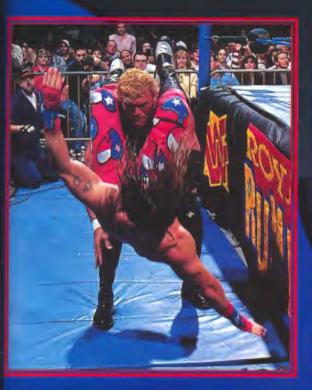
STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN:

"I said it all along, which word didn't you understand, son? Twenty-nine pieces of trash, one superstar! I threw all their carcasses out like the garbage that they were! Bret Hart? Maybe you should invest in a box of tissues, son!"

BRET "HIT MAN" HART:

"This is @#\$%\$! And if nobody's going to do anything about it... then I'll just have to take care of Stone Cold in my own way!"











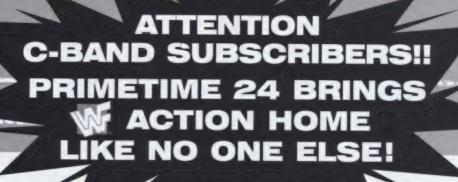


SHAWN MICHAELS:

"Words can't express the way I feel right now. To accomplish what I did in front of Jose, my parents, my family and 60,000 of my closest friends... I just can't find the words. I will never forget this night."







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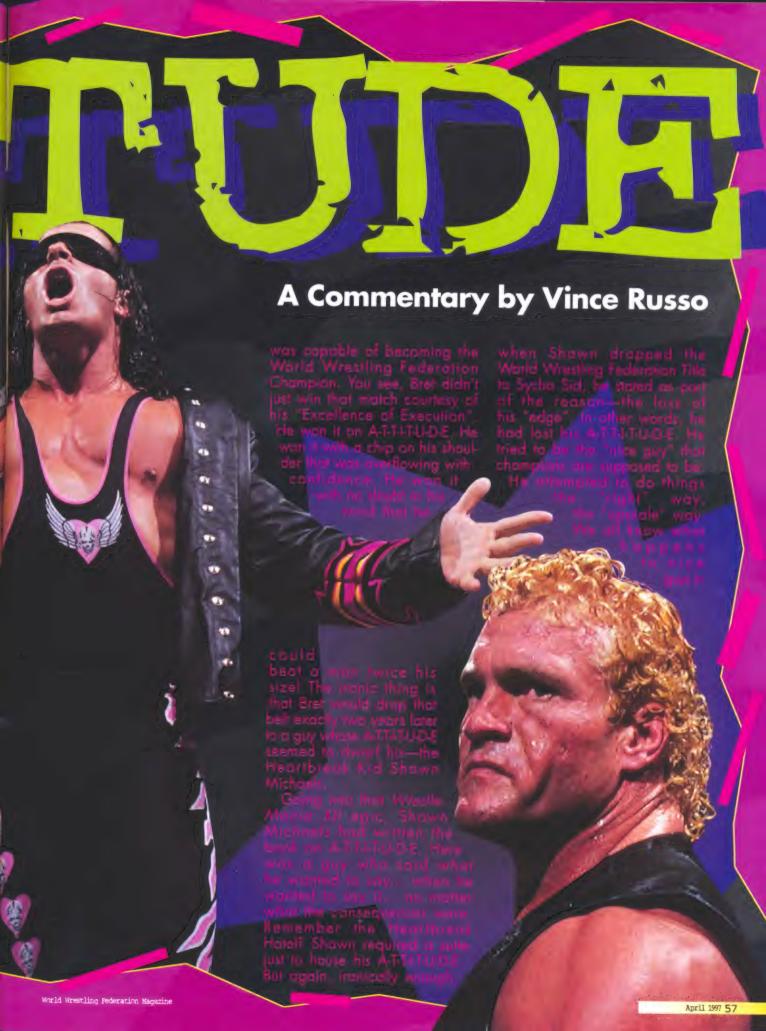
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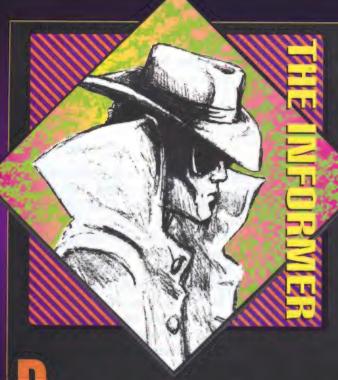


WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®









elieve it or not, one of the greatest bidding wars for the services of a World Wrestling Federation talent recently took place... and NOBODY knew about it! That is except, of course, for me, the Informer. If you look back a few months at Monday Night RAW, there was an incident in which the man they call VADER joined in to assist the NATION OF DOMINATION in putting the boots to the UNDERTAKER. Well, my little gossip mongers... the truth is, it was no INCIDENT. but perhaps a well-designed PLAN! That's right, my informants informed me, the Informer, that VADER was perhaps hours-no MINUTES-away from signing on the dotted line to become the newest member of the NATION OF DOMINATION! That is, however, until he was persuaded moments later by the cunning PAUL BEARER to join his House of Horrors! Unfortunately, since the signing, it hasn't all been a bed of DEAD roses for Mr. Bearer! It appears that his main henchman. MANKIND, has become a bit jealous of all the attention that is being paid to the new guy! I'll keep you posted on this "Tale From the Crypt" as it develops!... AND speaking of the NATION OF DOMINATION, rumor has it that they are currently scouting tag teams throughout the world, in search of the perfect legion that will make their menacing militia complete!... A source recently informed me, the Informer,

that World Wrestling Federation President. GORILLA MONSOON warned columnist VIC VENOM not to print his current edition of "The Bite" (see page 8), which depicted Federation officials (mainly senior official Earl Hebner) as the cause of the outbreak of "bad attitude" here in the Federation of late. Unfortunately, as is always the case, the outspoken VENOM ignored the request of MONSOON, and he went ahead and had the article printed anyway! Now, my informants inform me, the Informer, that MONSOON is considering not only fining VENOM, but suspending him from the magazine as well. However, VENOM, as usual, is standing behind the First Amendment, using it as a defensive shield to fight off the GORILLA. So now the question is: Who will win this battle. The Snake or the Monkey? I'll keep you posted!... The EXECUTIONER disappeared following his loss at December's IN YOUR HOUSE to the UNDERTAKER and nobody has seen or heard from him since... AND speaking of the UNDERTAKER, you can either believe this, or not, BUT I, the INFORMER have been informed that at one time or another, everybody's favorite Grim Reaper actually had discussions with none other than SYCHO SID, in regards to forming an alliance! Now, as far-fetched as that may sound, it is a fact that both these fearless competitors are loners, and both call their home the Dark Side! Now, maybe they are indeed from different parts of the neighborhood, but it would appear that there are enough similarities there to make this match made in HELL a reality! I'll keep you informed!... Will somebody put a leash on this guy?!... Until next time...this has been...the INFORMER... w



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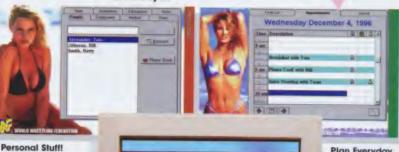


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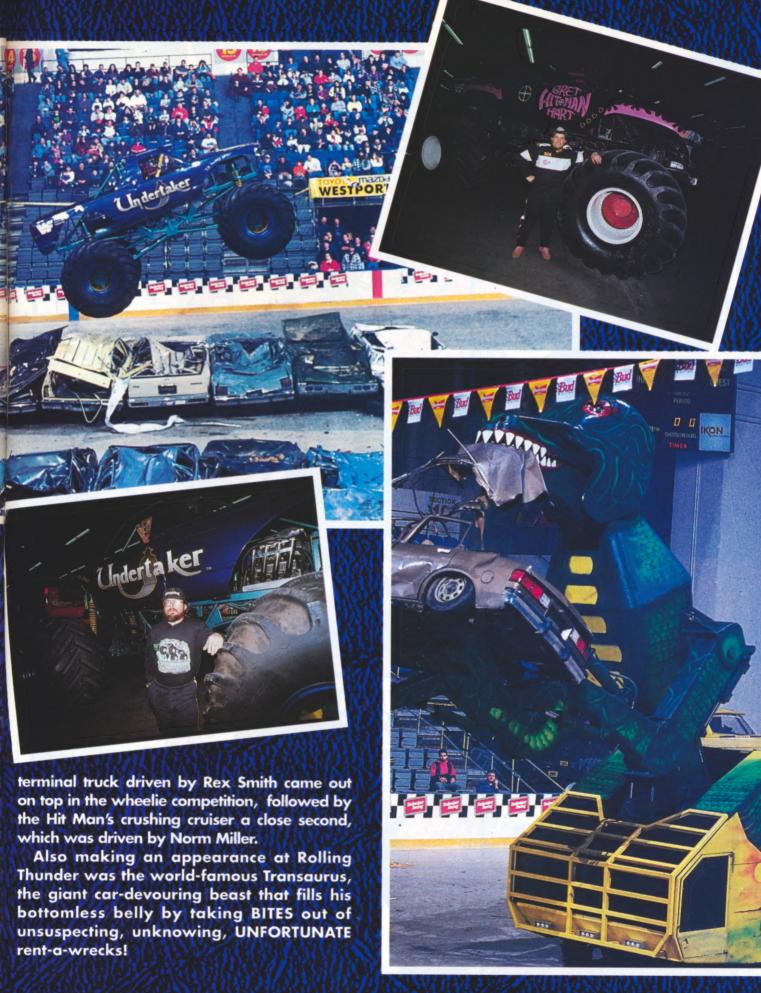
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